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COUNTRY Rumania REPORT NO. 25X1

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Lipova and Radna 25X1

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT prior to January 1952

DATE OBTAINED 14 October 1952 25X1

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. In August 1951, a large barracks installation east of the railroad station in the southwestern section of the town of Lipova (R 16/U 34) quartered Soviet troops. The installation consisted of four large multi-story buildings built on the edge of the town shortly before World War II. Three of these buildings served as quarters for troops, while one apparently housed a headquarters. The entire area of about 300 x 400 meters was surrounded by a barbed-wire fence. The southern entrance was for sedans, while the northern entrance was for trucks. Numerous Soviet soldiers wearing black uniforms were in the barracks installation. Tanks, trucks and guns of various calibers were observed in the area north and west of the buildings. More than 100 T-34 and JS-3 tanks were observed there. Guns with large barrels, thick muzzle brakes, protective shields and twin wheels and small guns with low silhouettes were seen. There was also light-caliber guns with very thin barrels, mounted on trucks. The number of trucks parked was estimated at several hundred. In August and September 1951, no weapons or guns in the area had been transferred or used for practice marches and only a few local changes were observed. In August 1951, the construction of a concrete turning area for tanks, 70 x 70 meters, was started by the local Rumanian government building firm in Arad, on Soviet orders. In September 1951, this turning area covered 54 square meters. The building material required was hauled on vehicles by Soviet construction details. The Rumanian building firm furnished five specialists. At the same time, Soviet construction details working under the supervision of Soviet officers who lived in the headquarters building, built a hard surfaced road along the south bank of the Luresul River linking the barracks area with the highway to Arad, and a second road in the direction of Timisoara. The tank turning area was linked with these two roads. The roads were 8 meters wide, had no ditches and consisted of a telford base, 30 cm thick, crushed stones and an asphalt cover. Because the terrain surrounding the roads became swampy in bad weather, vehicles leaving the road had to be pulled out of the mud.

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- 25X1 2. The Arad regional Rumanian construction firm received the building orders, including data on the kind of work, its purpose, building specifications and dates of delivery, from the Russians in writing. [redacted] there was no personal contact between the Russian and the Rumanian engineers because the Russians considered the Rumanians stupid and hardly ever talked to them. [redacted] the order for the construction of the turning area for tanks in Lipova came from a Soviet headquarters on Lipova, whose officers inspected the building operations from time to time. A Rumanian engineer of the government building firm in Arad occasionally mentioned a large military project in Chisinau Cris (R 16/U 29), but gave no details. *

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3. In August and September 1951, intensive fire of automatic and other weapons was heard during the day from the area between the railroad line to Timisoara, southwest of the building site, and the Muresul River. [redacted] armored units passing the town at night, coming from the direction of Arad. [redacted] groups of 20 to 30 armored vehicles on the roads north and south of the Muresul River in the daytime. [redacted] the tanks and armored vehicles came from Arad. **

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4. In the summer of 1951, [redacted] a Soviet-occupied barracks installation which had been built between 1943 and 1944 and, in the summer of 1951, was in good condition. *** In the fall of 1951, Rumanian and Russian maneuvers were held separately near Arad. Motorized Rumanian units participated in the Rumanian maneuvers.

5. In late August or early September 1951, Soviet military field exercises were observed near Paulis (R 16/U 25) where the ferry crosses the Muresul River. About 15 to 20 Soviet tanks and trucks carrying soldiers crossed the river from the flat south bank and proceeded toward the north. [redacted] the soldiers crossed the river on underwater bridges, as only their boots were under water. Although no bridges for the tanks or trucks were seen, residents living in the neighborhood said that the vehicles crossed the river on underwater bridges. Some of the Soviet trucks also used the civilian ferry. There was intensive flying activity above the crossing point during the operation. About 300 infantrymen participated in the exercise. **

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6. [redacted] prior to early 1952, Soviet troops were quartered in the barracks installations in Radna and Lipova. They had numerous tanks and guns. There were a large number of columns of armored vehicles on the roads between Arad and Radna-Lipova.

* [redacted] Comment. The name of building firm is Intreprindere Regionala de Constructie Locala Arad (Regional Construction Enterprise for the Arad District) (IRCLA).

** [redacted] Comment. The area mentioned apparently serves as a training area for Soviet units stationed in Arad and Lipova. [redacted]

*** [redacted] Comment. This barracks installation was previously reported to have a capacity of about 2,000 men.

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